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CREWKERNE URBAN DISTRICT.

ANNUAL REPORT  
of  
THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
For the Year ended 31st December, 1940.

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Public Health Officers -

Medical Officer of Health

D.V. Hague, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector

H.R. Stamp, A.R. San.I.

To the Chairman and Councillors of the Crewkerne Urban District

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report for 1940. War conditions, in particular evacuation, have forced us to accept temporarily a certain amount of overcrowding. Despite this, there has been no extensive epidemic of infectious disease. There has been some increase in the prevalence of Scabies and verminous conditions, and these are being vigorously tackled.

The Hostel for evacuated children was opened on June 14th, 1940, at the Speedwell Club Buildings. 207 children were accommodated during the year. The Hostel was originally for both sexes and was, at times, overcrowded owing to lack of other accommodation. It is proposed in future that Chard Hostel shall accommodate girls and Crewkerne Hostel boys.

The Eastern Outfall Sewage Works have come in for some criticism but, at present, no major changes have been recommended.

There has been no notable change in the administration of Air Raid Precaution services. Casualty services are based primarily on Crewkerne Hospital with Yeovil, Taunton and other Hospitals in support, if necessary.

I thank you for your co-operation and support during the year.

Yours faithfully,

D.V. Hague.



# SECTION A.

## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area ... ..	1255 acres
Registrar-General's estimate of	
(a) resident population, mid-1940 ... ..	3,640
(b) average population appropriate to the calculation of death rates ... ..	3,640
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1940) according to Rate Books ... ..	1,202
Rateable Value ... .. , , , ,	£20,753
Sum represented by a penny rate ... ..	£31. 10s.

The value of ventilation in some of the factories is not fully appreciated. Employees are apt to close windows and create conditions suitable for the spread of infection.

## EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

	Total	M.	F.
Live Births - Legitimate	46	20	26
Illegitimate	1	1	-
Still Births - Legitimate	2	1	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Deaths ... ..	46	17	29
Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population			12.83
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Total (Live & Still) Births			40.82
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated average population			12.61
Altered by Comparability Factor			11.22

### Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live & still) births
No. 29 Puerperal Sepsis	-	-
No. 30 Other Puerperal Causes	-	-

### Death Rate of Infants under One Year of Age.

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births ... ..	60
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	61.22
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births ... ..	Nil





Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ... ..	4
Deaths from Measles (all ages) .. ...	Nil.
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ... ..	Nil.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age). ... ..	Nil.

Causes of Death.

	M.	F.
Cerebro Spinal Fever	1	-
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	-	4
Cancer	-	4
Heart Disease	9	7
Other Circulatory Disease	1	-
Bronchitis	1	2
Pneumonia	-	2
Nephritis	1	-
Congenital Malformation, Birth		
Injuries, Infant Diseases	1	1
Other Defined Diseases	-	4
Suicide	-	-
Other Violent Causes	-	1
All Other Causes	3	4
Total	17	29

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

1. The Medical Officer of Health is now a whole-time officer and also Assistant County Medical Officer.

The Sanitary Inspector - No Change.

- 2.(a) Laboratory Facilities. - No Change.

- (b) Ambulance Facilities.

In addition to the local Red Cross Ambulance, the A.R.P. services have one Ambulance and one vehicle earmarked for an Ambulance in an Emergency.

- (c) Clinics and Treatment Centres.

The Ante- Natal Clinic and Infant Welfare Centre continue as before.

- (d) Nursing in the Home.

The District Nursing Association provides for the services of two nurses who are certified mid-wives, and also act as Infant Visitors.

- (e) Hospitals.

Arrangements are being made for a Decontamination Centre in Crewkerne hospital.

The South Somerset Isolation Hospital at South Petherton deals with infectious cases from Crewkerne Urban District and from 6 other districts. The following cases have been treated from Crewkerne during the year:-

	<u>Crewkerne Urban</u> <u>District Cases</u>	<u>Total Cases treated</u> <u>at the Hospital.</u>
Civilians	19	267
Evacuees	1	91
Military	2	99
Total	22	457



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## SECTION C.

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

#### 1. Water Supply.

Arrangements are being made to chlorinate the water supply from Mayford.

Reports on samples have proved satisfactory.

#### 2. Drainage and Sewerage.

Minor repairs only.

Every effort has been made to ensure the efficient working of the Eastern Outfall Works. The Northern Outfall Works are satisfactory.

#### Rivers and Streams.

A complaint of pollution of the River Farrett by the Eastern Outfall Sewerage Works was investigated. No serious pollution was found.

#### 3. (1) Closet Accommodation. No Change.

#### (11) Public Cleansing. No Change.

#### (111) Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Inspections for nuisances.

Informal notices served.

One notice was served in respect of a nuisance from pigsties, and abated.

Drainage tests and inspections.

New drainage work carried out during the year was tested and passed.

Houses disinfected.

23 houses were disinfected following cases of Infectious Diseases.

Shops and Offices.

No action was taken during the year under the Shops Act 1934.

Smoke Abatement.

No cases of smoke nuisance were reported during the year.

#### 4. Schools. No changes.

Evacuees under the Government Scheme are accommodated at 36 Crewkerne Schools.

## SECTION D.

### HOUSING PARTICULARS.

No new houses have been built during the year. The Population has been increased by roughly 1,000 Evacuees. About half of these are officially evacuated under Government Schemes. Some overcrowding is, therefore, inevitable. It is to be regretted that 17 houses, previously condemned as unfit for human habitation, have been reconditioned and are temporarily in use again.





Housing Inspections.

1.	(a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under F.P. or Housing Acts).	37
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose.	114
2.	(a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under H.Con. L. Res. 1925 and 1932.	14
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose.	14
	(c) Number of houses in which no action was found necessary.	14
3.	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	Nil.
4.	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	Nil.

Housing Action.

(a)	Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers.	4
(b)	Number of houses demolished voluntarily or in consequence of informal action.	Nil.

Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs.	Nil.
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice:-	
	(a) By owners	Nil.
	(b) By local authority in default of owners.	Nil.

Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.	Nil.
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-	
	(a) By owners	Nil.
	(b) By local authority	Nil.

Proceedings under Sections 11, 13 and 26 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made.	Nil.
(2)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders.	Nil.



Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act 1936.

- |  |      |
|--|------|
| (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made.  | Nil. |
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been made fit. | Nil. |

Housing Act, 1936 - Overcrowding.

- |   |      |
|---|------|
| (a)(1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year.  | Nil. |
| (11) Number of families dwelling therein.   | Nil. |
| (111) Number of persons dwelling therein.   | Nil. |
| (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year.   | 2    |
| (c)(1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year.  | 3    |
| (11) Number of persons concerned in such cases.   | 20   |
| (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the local authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding. | Nil. |

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

- |  |      |
|--|------|
| (a) Milk Supply -  |      |
| Number of Producers on the Register.   | 10   |
| Number of Distributors on the Register   |      |
| divided as follows:-   |      |
| (1) Distributors only.   | 6    |
| (11) Distributors who are also producers.  | 3    |
| Action taken with regard to inspection of farms and dairies, examination of samples for bacterial content and for tubercle bacilli, and the administration of the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, and the Milk (Special Designations) Orders, 1936 and 1938. Cowsheds and dairies are periodically inspected and samples for bacterial content and for tubercle bacilli taken for examination. |      |
| (b) Meat and Other Foods -   |      |
| Number of Slaughterhouses Licenced.  | 1    |
| "        "        "        Registered.   | 3    |
| Action taken with regard to meat and other foods, including inspection of meat, slaughterhouses, shops, stalls and vehicles, and places where food is prepared. Slaughterhouses, shops etc., are inspected and meat and other foods are examined and, where necessary, condemning notices are served.  |      |
| (c) Adulteration etc.  |      |
| Local action taken.  | Nil. |

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION. A Scheme is prepared for immunising School Children in 1941. A small percentage of Children under School age have been immunised by the General Practitioners under a County Scheme.



DISEASE.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases Admitted to Isolation Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Diphtheria	13	11	-
Scarlet Fever	12	5	-
Measles	13	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	-
Cerebro Spinal Fever	2	2	1
Pneumonia	2	-	2
Whooping Cough	6	-	-
Erysipelas	1	-	-

ANALYSIS OF THE TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED.

	Under 1 yr.	1-2 yrs.	2-3 yrs.	3-4 yrs.	4-5 yrs.	5-10 yrs.	10-15 yrs.	15-20 yrs.	20-35 yrs.	35-45 yrs.	45-65 yrs.
Diphtheria					1		1	5	5		1
Scarlet Fever			1			2	2	2	3	1	
Measles		1		2	7		2			1	
Puerperal Pyrexia									1		
Cerebro Spinal Fever					1					1	
Pneumonia	1								1		
Whooping Cough		1	1			4					
Erysipelas											1

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases & Mortality.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-								
1-5								
5-15				1				
15-25	1	3				2		
25-35	1					1		
35-45				1		1		
45-55								
55-65								
65 & upwards								
	2	3	-	2	-	4	-	-



